

UPI009

SCOWCROFT LL

(ALERT)

BONN (UPI) -- A DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY HE WAS "AWARE" U.S. TROOPS WENT ON ALERT EARLY TODAY BUT SAID THE ALERT DID NOT INCLUDE WEST GERMAN OR OTHER NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) FORCES.

"YES, WE'RE AWARE OF THAT BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE REASON," THE WEST GERMAN SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE KNEW THAT U.S. FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE HAD BEEN ALERTED TODAY FOR POSSIBLE MOBILIZATION.

"IN THEORY, IT COULD BE THE MIDDLE EAST OR IT COULD BE FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BUT OUR TROOPS ARE NOT ON THE ALERT AND NEITHER ARE NATO FORCES IN GENERAL, OR WE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT," HE SAID.

COMMENTING GENERALLY ON THE SITUATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID:

"ITS A FACT THESE DAYS THAT AMERICAN ALERTS ARE MORE FREQUENT THAN THEY USED TO BE."

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THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD BEEN SUMMONED INTO SESSION WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO HEAR EGYPTIAN CHARGES THAT THE SECURITY COUNCILS SECOND CEASEFIRE HAD ALSO BEEN BROKEN AND THAT A WHOLE NEW WAR HAD ERUPTED ALONG THE SUEZ FRONT.

THE ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, REPORTED ONLY SPORADIC FIGHTING WEDNESDAY AND THROUGH THE NIGHT AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE SUEZ CANAL WHERE THEY CLAIM TO HAVE TRAPPED ABOUT 20,000 SURVIVORS OF THE EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY. THE FIGHTING STARTED, THE ISRAELIS SAID, WHEN THE EGYPTIANS VAINLY TRIED TO SMASH THEIR WAY OUT OF THE ENCIRCLEMENT.

THE FIRST U.N. TRUCE OBSERVERS MEANWHILE BEGAN MOVING TO POSITIONS BETWEEN ARAB AND ISRAELI TROOPS ON BOTH THE SYRIAN AND SUEZ FRONTS.
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